



CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE VALLEY SCHOOL CAMPUS



Bangalore Education Centre
Krishnamurti Foundation India
'Haridvanam', Thatguni
BANGALORE - 560 062



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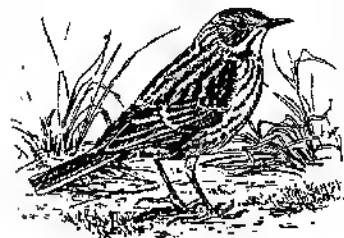
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The Valley School (12° 51'N, 77° 30'E) is situated 17km south of Bangalore City. It is a 100 acre patch of forest continuing with the Badavanamarthi State Forest. When the school was established in 1978 part of the area was covered by the remnants of a natural forest and the rest, barren land. On the whole the area can be divided into four distinct habitats.

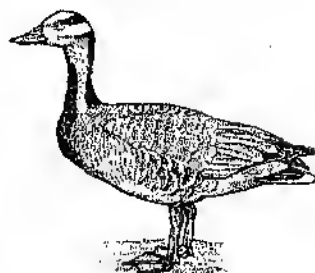


The eastern end of the campus forms a scrub and grassland habitat. The dominant plant species found in this region are trees such as *Morinda tinctoria*, *Albizia amara*, shrubs like *Clerodendrum serratum*, *Lantana camera*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Kirgenellia reticulata* and *Fluggea virosa* along with grasses *Chloris barbata*, *Themeda octovalvis* and *Aristida setosa*. Birds regularly seen in this habitat are grey partridge, Indian nightjar, baybacked shrike, yellow-wattled lapwing, large grey babbler, great horned owl, pied bushchat and singing bushlark.



Over the years the planting of trees such as *Ficus relegiosa*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Milletia ovalifolia*, *Delonix regia*, *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, *Mangifera indica*, *Pongamia pinnata* has turned the other end of the campus into a densely wooded region. *Ficus benghalensis*,

Zizyphus oenoplia, *Syzygium operculatum*, *Toddalia asiatica*, *Canthium parviflorum*, *Coculus hirsutus*, *Crotalaria* sp., *Argyrea cuneata* are also found in this region. Birds uncommonly seen around Bangalore such as blue chat, blackbird, chesnutheaded bee-eater, grey hornbill and brown hawk-owl were all spotted to this region.



The Badavanamarthi State Forest adjoining the school forms an altogether different habitat. It is a Eucalyptus plantation with a thick growth of lantana which makes it tough to penetrate. Plant species such as *Acacia leucophloea*, *Santalum album*, *Feronia elephantum*, *Psidium guajava*, *Erythroxylum monogynum*, *Cippadessa baccifera*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Coculus hirsutus* also thrive here. Owing to the low human disturbance roosts of bee-eaters and nests of sirkeer cuckoo, small greenbilled malkhoa, ringed dove and short-toad eagle have been seen here. Two irrigation tanks go to form the wetland habitat in the area.

The total extermination of the local peafowl population due to hunting, decrease in scrubland birds and the recent arrival of species like blue chat and common grey hornbill are among the more noticeable changes in the birdlife in the region in the past few years.



The following list is based on the observations made here from 1990-1997. The members of the Birdwatchers' field Club of Bangalore have also been organising field trips in the school for a decade now. Many of their sightings have also been included.

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS

Family : Podicipedidae

Little grebe	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>	rb B
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Family : Phalacrocoracidae

Little cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	rC
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Family : Ardeidae

Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	rC
Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	rC
Pond heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	rB
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	rB
Large egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	v 1
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	rB
Smaller egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	rD
Night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	rC
Chestnut bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	v 3

Family : Ciconiidae

Painted stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	rE
Openbill stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	v 1
White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	v 1

Family : Threskiornithidae

Black ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	v 1
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Family : Anatidae

Bar-headed goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	v 1
Lesser whistling teal	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	s C
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	w B
Common teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	w D
Spotbilled duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	r B
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	w B
Shoveller	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	v 2
Cotton teal	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	w E

Family : Accipitridae

Blackwinged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	r B
Honey buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	r B

Pariah kite	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i>	rb B
Black-eared kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	w D
Brahminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	rb B
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	rb B
White-eyed buzzard-eagle	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	r C
Crested hawk eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	r D
Booted hawk eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	w C
Tawny eagle	<i>Aquila rapax vindhiana</i>	r C
Black eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	r B
Indian longbilled vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	r D
Indian whitebacked vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	r B
Scavenger vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	r C
Pale harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	w E
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	w D
Pied harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	***
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	w C
Crested serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	r D
Short-toed eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>	rb C

Family : Falconidae

Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus japonensis</i>	v 1
Shaheen falcon	<i>Falco p. peregrinator</i>	v 2
Red headed merlin	<i>Falco chiquera</i>	r E
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	w C

Family : Phasianidae

Grey partridge	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	rb B
Jungle bush quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	rb C
Grey junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	rb C
Common peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	rb E
Rain quail	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	***

Family : Turnicidae

Common bustard quail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	r D
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Family : Rallidae

Ruddy crane	<i>Porzana fusca</i>	v 2
Whitebreasted waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	rb B

Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	w E
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	rb C

Family : Recurvirostridae

Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	w D
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Family : Burhidae

Great stone plover	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	r C
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Family : Glareolidae

Small Indian pratincole	<i>Lactea glareola</i>	sb E
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Family : Charadriidae

Redwattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	rb B
Yellow-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	rb B
Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	w D
Kentish plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	w D
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	w D
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	w B
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	w D
Common sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	w C
Fantail snipe	<i>Callinago gallinago</i>	v 2
Little stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	v 1

Family : Laridae

Whiskered tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	v 2
Indian river tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	rb C
Blackbellied tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	v 1

Family : Columbidae

Blue rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	v 1
Indian ring dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	rb B
Spotted dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	r B
Little brown dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	rb B

Family : Psittacidae

Roseringed parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	rb B
Blossomheaded parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	r E

Family : Cuculidae

Pied crested cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	r C
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Common hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	r D
Indian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	v 1
Indian plaintive cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	r L
Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	r B
Small greenbilled malkoha	<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>	rb C
Sirkeer cuckoo	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>	rb E
Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	rb B

Family : Strigidae

Collard scops owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	r D
Great horned owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	rb C
Brown fish owl	<i>Bubo zeylonensis</i>	r D
Barred jungle owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	***
Brown hawk owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	v 1
Spotted owl	<i>Athene brama</i>	rb B
Mottled wood owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	r C
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	r D

Family : Caprimulgidae

Indian jungle nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	r D
Common Indian nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	r B
Longtailed nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	rb C

Family Apodidae

Alpine swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	v 3
House swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	rb C
Palm swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	r D
Crested tree swift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>	***

Family : Alcedinidae

Lesser pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	rb C
Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	rb B
Whitebreasted kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smymensis</i>	rb B

Family : Meropidae

Small green bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	rb B
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Family : Coraciidae

Indian roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	r D
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Family : Upupidae

Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	rb B
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Family : Bucerotidae

Common grey hornbill	<i>Tockus birostris</i>	w E
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Family : Capitonidae

Small green barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	rb B
Crimsonbreasted barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	rb B

Family : Picidae

Lesser goldenbacked woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	rb B
Yellowfronted pied woodpecker	<i>Picoides mahrattensis</i>	v 1
Blackbacked woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>	r D
Scalybellied green woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>	***
Rufous woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	***

Family : Pittidae

Indian pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	w C
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Family : Alaudidae

Singing bush lark	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>	r C
Ashycrowned finch lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	rb C
Rufoustailed finch lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i>	r D
Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	r D
Rufouswinged bush lark	<i>Mirafra assamica</i>	?

Family : Hirundinidae

Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	w B
Wiretail swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	v 1
Indian cliff swallow	<i>Hirundo fluviicola</i>	v 1
Redrumped swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	rb B

Family : Laniidae

Baybacked shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	r B
Rufousbacked shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	r D
Brown shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	w B

Family : Oriolidae

Golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	w B
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Family : Dicruridae

Black drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	rb C
Ashy drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	w B
Whitebellied drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	r D
Haircrested drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	v 1

Family : Artamidae

Ashy swallow shrike	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>	v 1
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Family : Sturnidae

Greyheaded myna	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	v 2
Brahminy myna	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	r D
Rosy pastor	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	w C
Common myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	rb C
Jungle myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	rb B

Family : Corvidae

Indian tree pie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	rb B
House crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	r C
Jungle crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	rb B

Family : Campephagidae

Common wood shrike	<i>Tephrodomis pondicerianus</i>	r D
Large cuckoo shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	v 3
Blackheaded cuckoo shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>	r C
Small minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	r C

Family : Irenidae

Common iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	r B
Goldmantled chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	r B

Family : Pycnonotidae

Redwhiskered bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	rb A
Redvented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	rb B
Whitebrowed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	rb B

Family : Muscicapidae

Spotted babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>	r C
Whitethroated babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>	rb B
Common babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>	r E
Large grey babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	r C
Whiteheaded babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>	r C
Yelloweyed babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	rb C
Brown flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>	w C
Redbreasted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa parva</i>	w C
Tickell's blue flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa tickelliae</i>	rb B
Verditer flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa thalassina</i>	w C
Nilgiri flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa albicaudata</i>	v 1
Whitespotted fantail flycatcher	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	r E
Whitebrowed fantail flycatcher	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	***
Paradise flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	w B
Blacknaped flycatcher	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	w C
Whitebrowed blue flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa superciliaris</i>	***
Streaked fantail warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	r C
Franklin's wren warbler	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	r C
Plain wren warbler	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	r B
Ashy wren warbler	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	rb B
Jungle wren warbler	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>	r D
Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	rb B
Indian great reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	?
Blyth's reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	w C
Orphean warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	w D
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	w D
Large crowned leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus occipitalis</i>	v 1
Dull green leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	w B

Blue chat	<i>Erithacus brunneus</i>	w D
Magpie robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	rb B
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	w E
Stone chat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	r D
Pied bush chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	r C
Indian robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	rb B
Blueheaded rock thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>	w D
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	w E
Whitethroated ground thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	***

Family : Paridae

Grey tit	<i>Parus major</i>	rb B
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Family : Motacillidae

Paddyfield pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	w D
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	w B
Forest wagtail	<i>Motacilla indica</i>	v1
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	w E
Large pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	r B
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	w C

Family : Dicaeidae

Thickbilled flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>	r C
Tickell's flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	r A

Family : Nectariniidae

Purplerumped sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>	rb B
Purple sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>	rb C
Loten's sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>	rb C

Family : Zosteropidae

white eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i>	rb B
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Family : Pluceidae

House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	rb C
Baya weaver bird	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	rb B
Streaked weaver bird	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>	rb B
Red munia	<i>Estrilda amandava</i>	rb D
Whitebacked munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	r D
Spotted munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	rb B
Whitethroated munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	rb C
Blackheaded munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	rb C

Family : Fringillidae

Common rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	v1
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Status codes

r	resident
rb	resident breeding
sb	summer breeding
w	winter migrant
s	summer migrant
v	vagrant (no. of sightings)
?	identity uncertain
A	abundant
B	common
C	not so common
D	uncommon
E	rare
***	not seen by us



References

- Ali, Salim and Ripley, S. D. (1983): Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.
- Birdwatchers' Field Club of Bangalore (1994) : Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Bangalore.
- Manu Prasanna *et al.* (1994) : Valley School Birds, Newsletter for Birdwatchers, 34 (6) : 137-138.